(b) No, Sir. Village Nandla [Gram Panchayat Jangla] is presently covered under Health Sub-Centre, Kulgoun and PHC Jangla which are at a walking distance of 1 Km. and 2 Kms. respectively from village Nandla. However, the distance by road to PHC Jangla is about 10 kms but otherwise it is just about 2 kms distance on foot.

(c) As mentioned above, Village Nandla [Gram Panchayat Jangla] is presently covered under Health Sub-Centre, Kulgoun and PHC Jangla. It will further benefit with the appointment of ASHA in Gram Panchayat Jangla under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM]. Civil Hospital, Rohru with specialist facilities and sufficient infrastructure is also there for providing medical facilities. Under NRHM, financial support is also extended to State Government for establishment of new Primary Health Centres [PHCs] and upgradation of existing PHCs. State Governments are required to incorporate their requirement in their annual Programme Implementation Plans.

New Catering Policy

*336. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated a New Catering Policy in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of new agencies to which catering contracts have been awarded during last three years, year-wise, together with the terms of the contracts and the procedure to be followed in this regard;

(d) the number of new catering stalls allotted during the last three years and the train numbers in which they are expected to be provided, zone-wise;

(e) whether the Kaifiyat Express train, Delhi-Azamgarh-Delhi shall be provided with this facility and if so, by when; and

(f) the steps taken to keep the prices of food items reasonable?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Railways' catering policy was last revised in December 2005. Thereafter, no new catering policy has been issued.

(c) and (d) Generally contracts for bigger catering units are awarded through two-packet tender system, and other units by calling applications. The tenure of these contracts ranges from three to nine years. Number of new licensees who have been awarded (catering units including major units) by IRCTC is as under:—

No. of new Licensees in 2004-05	No. of new licensees in 2005-06	No. of new licensees in 2006-07
7	23	94

New catering stalls (small units) allotted by IRCTC during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as under:—

Railways	Stalls allotted in 2004-05	Stalls allotted in 2005-06	Stalls allotted in 2006-07
1	2	3	4
Central	0	9	72

1	2	3	4
West Central	0	0	20
Western	0	25	93
Northern	0	0	42
North Eastern	0	0	4
Southern	0	0	72
East Coast	0	0	3
East Central	0	0	7
South Eastern	0	0	6
Northeast Frontier	0	0	2
South Central	0	8	0
TOTAL	0	42	321

(e) Catering services on trains are provided through pantry cars, train side vending and static catering units at stations *en route*. Attachment of pantry cars is considered based on various considerations such as priority of the train, journey time, commercial justification and availability of pantry cars. Presently catering services are provided in Kaifiyat Express through on-train supply from stationary catering units (Train Side Vending).

(f) Prices of standard meals, tea/coffee and breakfast are fixed by Railway Board taking into account the cost of raw materials, fuel, staff cost, packaging, etc. Menu and tariff of *a-la-catre* food items are decided by IRCTC and Zonal Railways in a similar fashion. These prices are considered reasonable. Regular watch is kept to ensure that the catering licensees do not overcharge the passengers while selling standard and *a-la-catre* food items at stations and on trains. Action is taken against licensees found overcharging railways passengers.

Increasing the allocation of rice to Mizoram

*337. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the crisis of food security in Mizoram and the gravity of famine situation in that State;

(b) whether Government has received any appeal from the Government of Mizoram to enhance allocation of APL/BPL/AAY rice to save the people of Mizoram from starvation; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to solve this problem by conceding the appeal of the Government of Mizoram, and the time frame for enhancement of allocation alongwith the action taking thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.